

**U.S. Department of the Navy
United States Fleet Forces Command**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) for Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore Training at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, North Carolina

Introduction

Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §§ 1500-1508) implementing NEPA; U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) Regulations (32 CFR Part 775); and Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 5090.1D; the Navy gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared for the conduct of Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) training at Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia and at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of JLOTS training is to ensure that Navy, Marine Corps, and Army personnel develop and maintain competence in conducting joint ship-to-shore movement of cargo and personnel. Because amphibious operations are inherently dangerous (being conducted in potentially high sea states and across the surf zone into potentially hostile territory), training in a realistic setting is also critical to the safety of personnel.

JLOTS training is needed to support the Navy's requirements to organize, train, and equip forces for prompt and sustained combat and to coordinate with other military branches, consistent with Title 10 U.S.C. § 5062. Joint Publication 4.01-6, *Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS)*, prepared under the direction of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, establishes doctrine requiring Navy units, along with their Marine Corps and Army counterparts, to routinely conduct realistic JLOTS exercises in order to ensure continued readiness to perform joint logistics over-the-shore in combat and humanitarian relief operations.

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to conduct joint logistics over-the-shore training and associated unit-level field training exercises (FTXs) on the east coast, including the construction of the Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (ELCAS [M]). The purpose of joint logistics over-the-shore training is to train military units in establishing and executing vital logistics operations in undeveloped or unimproved and

often hostile nearshore environments, where no support structures or facilities, such as piers, are present.

Navy units must perform seven FTXs proficiently in order to meet Navy training requirements. JLOTS FTXs involve the use of temporary piers, watercraft, and equipment to move cargo, rolling stock, and personnel from ships to the shore; the staging, mobilization, and transport of cargo and equipment from the shore to inland locations; and the construction and establishment of supporting activities such as shoreline and inland encampments. The FTXs are performed both individually and, less frequently, as a combined exercise known as a full JLOTS exercise.

Alternatives

The Proposed Action is to conduct JLOTS training at east coast locations. To develop and screen alternatives, the Navy used the following criteria:

- All training equipment for JLOTS, which can only be transported to other locations via large MSC ships, is stored at Naval Beach Group TWO's operational headquarters at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story. Therefore, in order to maximize the ability to conduct local unit-level training on a recurring basis, and to minimize unnecessary costs, the training location must be within a reasonable distance from JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.
- The location must include undeveloped and unencumbered beach frontage to provide a realistic training environment.
- The location must have water depths equal to 20 feet to allow for the anchorage of support vessels alongside the ELCAS (M), floating causeway, or administrative pier.
- The location must be available year-round to provide training in all seasonal conditions.
- The location must provide a minimum of five acres of beach for the offloading and staging of equipment and materiel.
- The location must provide access to a minimum of 30 inland acres for base camp. The land does not need to be contiguous.
- The beach location must be able to segregate training areas from other public and private uses for the duration of each training exercise.

Locations that do not meet these criteria would not meet the Navy's purpose and need to conduct realistic and routine JLOTS exercises to ensure continued combat and humanitarian relief readiness.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.

Conduct JLOTS training at other Navy or military installations:

Conducting JLOTS training at east coast military installations other than JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune were eliminated

because the available installations, with the exception of Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and Joint Base Langley-Eustis, are located too far from the operational headquarters of Naval Beach Group TWO. Conducting JLOTS training at installations other than JEB Little Creek-Fort Story or Camp Lejeune would require the movement of assets (personnel and equipment) over long distances, reducing the frequency of training events and increasing costs to the government. While Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and Joint Base Langley-Eustis are located in relative proximity to the headquarters of Naval Beach Group TWO, the shorelines of both installations consist of riverine environments that do not pose the required training challenges associated with dynamic tidal shorelines.

Conduct JLOTS training on other beaches at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story or Camp Lejeune:

Other beaches at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune were considered as possible training locations but were eliminated for the following reasons:

Little Creek: An important component of JLOTS training is moving troops and equipment from the sea, over the shore, and into inland areas. Sicily, Normandy, and Salerno beaches do not have open access roads leading inland. Therefore, to use these beaches would require the establishment of new infrastructure to access the inland areas needed to accomplish the training. Enlisted Beach is a narrow, recreational beach that does not provide adequate maneuver space for troops and equipment. The use of Officer's Beach, which is behind the pistol and rifle range, would require the range to be closed for the duration of a JLOTS exercise, interfering with the training schedules of other commands.

Fort Story: The erosion-protection breakwaters located on Inchon Beach would interfere with JLOTS training by impeding access to the shore from the open water. Other beaches on the installation are heavily eroded, lack access roads, and do not provide adequate maneuver space for JLOTS training activities.

Camp Lejeune: Beaches at Camp Lejeune other than Onslow Beach are reserved for conservation or recreation.

Conduct JLOTS training on beaches not located on military installations:

Beaches other than those located on federal military installations were considered as possible training locations but were eliminated since the presence of civilians near heavy equipment and in-water training activities could pose a danger to the public, and civilian use of the areas would be difficult to control.

No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative involves the continuation of JLOTS training exercises at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune at the current levels and intensity. The No Action Alternative does not meet all training requirements because it does not include the ELCAS (M) component of the exercise.

Under the No Action Alternative, the following training activities would continue to take place at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story:

- One full JLOTS training event each year, incorporating the following FTXs at any time during the year:
 - o Improved Navy Lighterage System training
 - o Floating causeway construction training (Fort Story site only)
 - o Liquid transfer system training
 - o Tactical Water Purification System training
 - o Cargo marshalling and movement
 - o Tent encampment establishment
- In addition to the full JLOTS exercise, the conduct of unit-level exercises could include any combination of the listed FTXs or a single FTX. These unit-level training events involve fewer personnel and less equipment (vessels, vehicles, etc.) than those required for the full JLOTS exercise.

The No Action Alternative entails conducting only a full JLOTS training exercise at Camp Lejeune each year in the same fashion as described for the JEB Little Creek-Fort Story site. No quarterly or routine unit-level training would occur at Camp Lejeune under the No Action Alternative.

Action Alternative: The Action Alternative would consist of the No Action Alternative plus the following additional training exercises:

- One ELCAS (M) exercise per year at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story;
- One ELCAS (M) exercise per year at Camp Lejeune; and
- Two floating causeway FTXs per year at Little Creek.

Currently, the ELCAS (M) FTX is not being conducted as part of JLOTS training. The requirement for Sailors to achieve and maintain proficiency in the construction of the ELCAS (M) is the primary differentiating factor between the No Action and Action Alternatives.

The annual occurrence and frequency of the FTXs under the No Action Alternative and Action Alternative are detailed in Table 1.

FTX	No Action Alternative										Action Alternative							
	# Annual Occurrence as Part of a Full JLOTS Exercise ²				# Annual Occurrences as Part of Quarterly Unit-Level Exercises ³				# Annual Occurrences as Part of Routine Unit-Level Exercises ⁴				Total # of Annual Occurrences	# Annual Occurrences as Part of Routine Unit-Level Exercises ⁴	Total # of Annual Occurrences			
	JEB LC-FS	CL	JEB LC-FS	CL	JEB LC-FS	CL	LC	FS	JEB LC-FS	CL	LC	FS						
	1	1	4	0	0	152	0	0	158	1	1	4	0	0	152	0	158	
Improved Navy Lighterage System																		
Floating Causeway	2 ¹	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Liquid Transfer Systems	1	1	4	0	0	6	0	0	12	1	1	4	0	0	6	0	12	
Tactical Water Purification System	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	6	
Cargo Marshalling and Movement	1	1	4	0	0	152	0	0	158	1	1	4	0	0	152	0	158	
Tent Encampment	1	1	4	0	0	6	0	0	12	1	1	4	0	0	6	0	12	
ELCAS (M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Note:																		
1. Under the No Action Alternative, floating causeways would only be constructed on the Fort Story portion of JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.																		
2. All activities identified as occurring as part of full JLOTS exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently at a given installation.																		
3. All activities identified as occurring as part of quarterly unit-level exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently with other quarterly unit-level exercises.																		
4. All activities identified as occurring as part of routine unit-level exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently with other routine unit-level exercises.																		
JEB LC-FS = JEB Little Creek-Fort Story																		
CL = Camp Lejeune																		
LC = Little Creek																		
FS = Fort Story																		

Note:

1. Under the No Action Alternative, floating causeways would only be constructed on the Fort Story portion of JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.
2. All activities identified as occurring as part of full JLOTS exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently at a given installation.
3. All activities identified as occurring as part of quarterly unit-level exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently with other quarterly unit-level exercises.
4. All activities identified as occurring as part of routine unit-level exercises were analyzed as if they occurred concurrently with other routine unit-level exercises.

JEB LC-FS = JEB Little Creek-Fort Story
CL = Camp Lejeune
LC = Little Creek
FS = Fort Story

Table 1: Frequency of JLOTS Exercises at All Locations for Both Alternatives

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

No significant direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts would occur from implementing the Proposed Action at either JEB Little Creek-Fort Story or at Camp Lejeune. The analysis of impacts assumes that most of the FTXs would occur simultaneously (i.e., the scenario expected to have the greatest potential for impacts to the environment). Even so, potential impacts on the human environment would be minor.

Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1501.7(a)(3), the following resources were not considered in detail because the Proposed Action has no potential to affect them: land use; visual resources; infrastructure; land transportation; and Environmental Justice.

Air Quality

No significant impacts on air quality are expected.

- Determination of applicability with the General Conformity Rule (40 C.F.R. § 93.153) was made by the Navy.
- Emissions from the Proposed Action would represent a negligible percentage of the air emissions inventoried locally in either the Hampton Roads region (JEB Little Creek-Fort Story) or the Onslow County region (Camp Lejeune), and would be well below the applicable General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds.
- None of the potential emissions would cause or contribute to a violation of any National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Therefore, no significant impacts on local or regional air quality would be expected, and a formal Conformity Determination is not required. In accordance with Clean Air Act regulations, the Navy prepared a Record of Non-Applicability.

Noise

No significant impacts from airborne noise are expected.

- The additional airborne noise generated by the construction and removal of floating causeways would be negligible.
- Pile driving and removal associated with the construction of ELCAS (M) would generate greater airborne noise levels than under the No Action Alternative, however, the limited intensity and short duration of additional airborne noise would have no significant impacts.
- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways will occur on military installations and there are no sensitive receptors in close proximity.

Public Health and Safety

No significant impacts on public health and safety are expected.

- All offshore JLOTS activities would take place within restricted areas as defined in 33 C.F.R. § 334.310 and 334.320 (at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story) and 33 C.F.R. § 334.440 (at Camp Lejeune).

- All onshore JLOTS activities would take place on military beaches that are not open to the public.
- Notices to Mariners would be issued before each full JLOTS training exercise and those exercises would be conducted in accordance with the Navy's established safety procedures.
- Operators would monitor civilian traffic to ensure that training activities and civilian uses of the waterway do not conflict.

Socioeconomics

No significant impacts on socioeconomic resources are expected.

- In-water areas affected by training would be of moderate size (a few square miles just offshore of the host installations), the activities are of limited duration, and the majority of activities would take place close to shore.
- No commercial shipping lanes or important commercial fisheries would be affected.
- No marinas or recreational boating infrastructure exists where the exercises take place and there are alternative boating areas that can be used during JLOTS exercises.

Water Resources

No significant impacts on water resources are expected.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and the floating causeways associated with the Action Alternative would cause some additional sediment disturbance and turbidity than under the No Action Alternative.
- The amount of displaced sediment, however, would be limited due to the use of hollow piles.
- The additional impacts associated with the construction of the ELCAS (M) and the floating causeways would be limited in duration, extent, and intensity and would be minimal, localized, and short-lived.

Bathymetry, Sediments, Topography and Soils

No significant impacts on bathymetry, sediments, topography, or soils are expected.

- Localized and temporary alterations of nearshore and shoreline bathymetry may occur in places; however, natural wave and tidal action would quickly return the seafloor and beaches to conditions similar to those found prior to training.
- Vehicle and personnel movements from the beach to inland areas would be through existing paths and dune breaks and all inland movements would be on existing roads with no impacts on soils.

Cultural Resources

No significant impacts on cultural resources are expected.

JEB Little Creek-Fort Story:

- Under the Action Alternative at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story, the construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and the floating

causeways would not cause any additional impacts over the No Action Alternative because of the lack of presence of National Register-eligible or -listed submerged cultural resources.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and the floating causeways would not change the character of the use of Fort Story, as it is already used for military operations.
- Under the National Historic Preservation Act, Action Alternative activities at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story would have no effect on National Register-eligible or -listed archaeological resources; no adverse effect on National Register-eligible or -listed architectural resources at Fort Story; and no effect on National Register-eligible or -listed architectural resources at Little Creek.

Camp Lejeune:

- Under the No Action Alternative, the construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) would not cause any additional impacts because no National Register-eligible or -listed submerged cultural resources are present.
- There are no terrestrial archaeological sites present within the footprint of the proposed activities, and no training activities will occur within the viewshed of terrestrial architectural sites.
- Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Action Alternative activities at Camp Lejeune would have no effect on National Register-listed or -eligible archaeological or architectural resources.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Vegetation

No significant impacts on terrestrial or aquatic vegetation are expected.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways would occur in areas that have little or no vegetation.
- The impacts associated with the Action Alternative at both installations would be temporary and localized with no permanent loss of habitat.
- No community-level consequences to terrestrial or aquatic vegetation would be expected.
- Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the conduct of the Action Alternative may affect, but would not likely to adversely affect, the seabeach amaranth.
- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to vegetation.

Terrestrial Wildlife and Birds

No significant impacts on terrestrial wildlife and birds are expected.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways could produce minor additional impacts from artificial

light from vehicles and equipment; the temporary loss of habitat; and noise from vessels, vehicles, and equipment.

- Birds could experience behavioral disturbance from pile driving noise, but it would be limited in duration, continuity, and range, and would not cause population-level impacts or affect the continued survival of the species.
- Under the ESA, the conduct of the Action Alternative at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the piping plover and would have no effect on the roseate tern or the red knot.
- Under the ESA, the Action Alternative at Camp Lejeune may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the piping plover and the red knot and would have no effect on the roseate tern.
- The conduct of the Action Alternative would have no effect on piping plover critical habitat.
- Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the conduct of the Action Alternative would not result in a significant adverse effect on migratory bird populations.
- Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the conduct of the Action Alternative would not be expected to result in any incidental takes of bald eagles.
- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to birds.

Fish and Marine Invertebrates

No significant impacts on fish or marine invertebrates are expected.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways would produce minor additional impacts from temporary loss of habitat; temporary impacts on water quality; vessel/vehicle strikes; and noise from vessels, vehicles and equipment.
- Physiological or behavioral impacts may occur, but they would be limited in duration, intensity, and continuity due to the intermittent occurrence of pile driving.
- No population level impacts on fish or marine invertebrates are anticipated, and the continued survival of all species would be unaffected.
- Under the ESA, the Action Alternative at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the Atlantic sturgeon and would have no effect on the shortnose sturgeon.
- Under the ESA, the Action Alternative at Camp Lejeune may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the Atlantic sturgeon and the shortnose sturgeon.
- Pursuant to the essential fish habitat requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations, the Action Alternative may have adverse impacts on water column essential fish habitat and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern from pile driving activities.

- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to fish.

Sea Turtles

No significant impacts on sea turtles are expected.

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways would produce minor additional impacts from artificial light from vehicles and equipment; the temporary loss of habitat; temporary impacts on water quality; and noise from vessels, vehicles, and equipment.
- The intermittent occurrence of pile driving suggests that while physiological or behavioral impacts may occur, they would be limited in duration, intensity, and continuity.
- No population level impacts would occur, and the continued survival of any sea turtle species would not be affected. Mitigation measures would be employed to ensure minimization of impacts, and are discussed later.
- Under the ESA, the Action Alternative may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, green, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, or loggerhead sea turtles and would have no effect on hawksbill sea turtles.
- The Action Alternative at Camp Lejeune would have no effect on loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat north and south of Onslow Beach (there is no critical habitat designated off Onslow Beach).
- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to sea turtles.

Marine Mammals

No significant impacts on marine mammals are expected.

JEB Little Creek-Fort Story:

- The construction and removal of the ELCAS (M) and floating causeways would produce minor additional impacts from temporary loss of habitat; temporary impacts on water quality; and noise from vessels, vehicles, and equipment.
- The intermittent occurrence of pile driving suggests that while physiological or behavioral impacts may occur, they would be limited in duration, intensity, and continuity.
- No population level impacts would occur, and the continued survival of any marine mammal species would not be affected.
- Under the ESA, activities associated with the Action Alternative at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the fin whale, humpback whale, and the North Atlantic right whale, and would have no effect on the sei whale and West Indian manatee.
- Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the conduct of the Action Alternative at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story would not result in Level A incidental takes of marine mammals and may result in up to 50 Level B incidental takes for bottlenose dolphins annually.

- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to marine mammals.

Camp Lejeune:

- Impacts on marine mammals at Camp Lejeune are expected to be the same as described above for JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.
- Under the ESA, activities associated with the Action Alternative at Camp Lejeune may affect, but not likely to adversely affect, the fin whale, humpback whale, the North Atlantic right whale, and West Indian manatee, and would have no effect on the sei whale.
- Pursuant to the MMPA, the conduct of the Action Alternative at Camp Lejeune would not result in Level A incidental takes of marine mammals, may result in up to 60 Level B incidental takes for bottlenose dolphins, and may result in up to 50 Level B incidental takes for Atlantic spotted dolphins annually.
- The Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures section has measures designed to reduce potential impacts to marine mammals.

Cumulative Impacts

No significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts would be expected on any of the resources analyzed in the JLOTS EA. The Navy analyzed past, present, and reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts from the following activities:

- Army and Navy beach nourishment projects;
- Atlantic Fleet Aerial Target Operations Facility;
- Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement;
- Virginia Inland Training Environmental Assessment;
- Sea Air Land delivery vehicle team training;
- Camp Lejeune range operations;
- recreational boating and fishing;
- commercial fishing; and
- community activities.

These impacts, in combination with the JLOTS training activities in the Proposed Action, would result in minor, incremental cumulative impacts, not rising to the level of significance.

Mitigation and Standard Operating Procedures

The following conservation measures, standard operating procedures and mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce or avoid potential environmental impacts associated with JLOTS training activities:

PLANTS

Ongoing conservation Measures - Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

The Camp Lejeune INRMP contains conservation measures designed to protect seabeach amaranth. The following conservation measures are applicable to JLOTS activities:

- Potential habitat locations are surveyed each summer and seabeach amaranth sites are marked with signs to prevent military, off-road recreational vehicles, and pedestrian traffic from harming the plants.
- Potential habitat in overwash areas is protected from vehicle traffic year-round. Driving on the amphibious landing beach (Riseley Pier to the South Tower) is restricted between April 1 and August 31 as per Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Base Order 5090.111.
- For operations near or on the beach, it is prohibited to remove or disturb beach grasses or plants. The beach is only to be accessed at designated areas marked with yellow and black poles; heavy equipment and vehicles are kept off sand dunes and vegetation; and bivouac is carried out on the north side of the beach road, not on the beach itself.
- Prior to initiation of sand-pushing or bulldozing, the area is surveyed for seabeach amaranth. If seabeach amaranth is found in an area to be disturbed by dune building activities, the project is delayed until natural plant senescence.

BIRDS

Ongoing conservation measures- INRMP

The Camp Lejeune INRMP contains conservation measures designed to protect the piping plover at Camp Lejeune. The following conservation measures are applicable to JLOTS activities:

- From April to August, portions of the New River Inlet beach area are closed to vehicle traffic.
- Biweekly shorebird surveys are conducted along the accessible portions of Onslow Beach.
- Starting in April, habitat is subject to increased protective measures by posting signs stating the area is "protected" and intensity of surveys is increased.
- Piping plover census counts are conducted over the winter and in the breeding season. Piping plovers sighted during the nesting season are observed for signs of breeding behavior.
- Though only a remote possibility, Camp Lejeune was granted incidental take for nesting piping plovers by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2002. The conditions of this incidental take statement include:
 - o Surveying bimonthly for piping plover to document their use of Onslow Beach. If nesting behavior is identified, the area is immediately posted with signs prohibiting vehicular or human access.
 - o Prior to dune construction activities, project areas and the surrounding area are surveyed for adult, young, or nests of piping plover.

- o If a nest is located or adults are exhibiting breeding behavior within 300 feet of a proposed dune building project site, the project is delayed until the breeding season is complete.

The JEB Little Creek-Fort Story INRMP contains ongoing conservation measures designed to protect birds at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story. The following conservation measures are applicable to JLOTS activities:

- Minimization of disturbance from human activities within fenced or posted wildlife protection areas.
- Restricting approach or lingering of foot traffic or vehicles near piping plovers or their nests (if nesting were to occur).
- Requiring beachgoers to dispose of all trash and food scraps in appropriate receptacles to avoid attracting predators which may prey upon beach nesting bird species, including piping plovers.
- Establishing and maintaining an emergency response plan for oil and chemical spills.

Standard operating procedures - soft starts (all locations)

Soft starts are performed at the beginning of impact pile driving, which means that the initial set of strikes from the impact hammer are performed at reduced energy before the hammer is able to operate at full power and speed. Initiating impact pile driving at a lower power allows birds (and other wildlife such as fish and marine mammals) to move away from the immediate vicinity of the activity, before noise levels are at their greatest, thereby reducing the likelihood of exposure to sound levels that could cause further behavioral disturbance or injury.

SEA TURTLES

Ongoing conservation measures - all locations:

Military training staff and installation conservation staff are cognizant of the potential presence of marine species. Shore patrols and other units at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune that may encounter stranded sea turtles are instructed and required to report strandings (alive or dead) to natural resources staff, who report the incident to the appropriate response networks.

Standard operating procedures - Lookout procedural measures (all locations):

The Navy will have two types of Lookouts for the purposes of conducting visual observations, those positioned on vessels and those positioned on small boats while the vessel or small boat is underway. Lookouts positioned on vessels will be dedicated solely to diligent observation of the air and surface of the water. They will have multiple observation objectives, which include, but are not limited to, detecting the presence of

biological resources and vessel traffic, observing the applicable mitigation zones, and monitoring for vessel and personnel safety concerns.

Minimally manned vessels and vessels less than 65 feet in length will have one Lookout at the forward position of the vessel due to space and manning restrictions. Lookouts positioned on small boats may include the boat crew and may be responsible for tasks in addition to observing the surface of the water (e.g., navigation). However, small boat Lookouts will, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with safety and training requirements, comply with the observation objectives described above for Lookouts positioned on larger vessels. All vessels use extreme caution and proceed at a "safe speed" so they can take proper and effective action to avoid a collision with any sighted object or disturbance and can stop within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

Standard operating procedures - soft starts (all locations)

Soft starts as described for birds also apply to sea turtles.

Mitigation measures - Marine Species Awareness Training (all locations):

Consistent with current requirements, all personnel standing watch on the bridge, Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, and Lookouts must successfully complete the Marine Species Awareness Training prior to standing watch or serving as a Lookout.

Mitigation measures for Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (all locations):

For both JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune, mitigation will include visual observation (which could be from the shore, an elevated causeway, or a vessel) starting 30 minutes prior to and during the exercise within a mitigation zone of 60 yards around the pile driver. The exercise will not commence if concentrations of floating vegetation (*Sargassum*, or kelp paddies) are observed in the mitigation zone. Pile driving will cease if a marine mammal or sea turtle is sighted within the mitigation zone. Pile driving will recommence if any one of the following conditions is met: (1) the animal is observed exiting the mitigation zone, (2) the animal is thought to have exited the mitigation zone based on its course, speed, and time elapsed since the last sighting or (3) the mitigation zone has been clear from any additional sightings for a period of 30 minutes.

MARINE MAMMALS

Ongoing Conservation Measures - all locations:

JEB Little Creek-Fort Story personnel report all marine mammal strandings to Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Response Team and to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Camp Lejeune personnel report all marine mammal strandings to the Marine Mammal

Stranding Network at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Standard operating procedures - Lookout procedural measures (all locations)

Lookout procedures as described for sea turtles also apply to marine mammals.

Standard operating procedures - soft starts (all locations)

Soft starts as described for birds also apply to marine mammals.

Mitigation measures - Marine Species Awareness Training (all locations):

Marine Species Awareness Training mitigation measures described above for sea turtles also apply to marine mammals.

Mitigation measures -Elevated Causeway System (Modular) (all locations):

ELCAS (M) mitigation measures described above for sea turtles also apply to marine mammals.

Mitigation measures - North Atlantic Right Whale Mid-Atlantic Migration Corridor (all locations):

- Chesapeake Bay: Within a 20 nm radius of the following (as measured seaward from the COLREGS lines): 37°00'36.9" North / 075°57'50.5" West.
- Morehead City, North Carolina: Within a 20 nm radius of the following (as measured seaward from the COLREGS lines): 34°41'32.0" North / 076°40'08.3" West.
- Wilmington, North Carolina, through South Carolina, and to Brunswick, Georgia: Within a continuous area 20 nautical miles from shore and west back to shore bounded by 34°10'30" North / 077°49'12" West; 33°56'42" North / 077°31'30" West; 33°36'30" North / 077°47'06" West; 33°28'24" North / 078°32'30" West; 32°59'06" North / 078°50'18" West; 31°50'00" North / 080°33'12" West; 31°27'00" North / 080°51'36" West.

When transiting within the migration corridor, the Navy will practice increased vigilance, exercise extreme caution, and proceed at the slowest safe speed that is consistent with mission, training, and testing objectives.

Mitigation measures - West Indian Manatee at Camp Lejeune:

The following measures apply to ELCAS (M) construction activities at Camp Lejeune for the West Indian manatee:

- All personnel associated with ELCAS (M) will be informed that manatees may be present in the project area, and instructed that care must be taken to avoid any harm to these endangered marine mammals.
- All personnel will be informed that during water-related activities, they are responsible for observing for the

presence of manatees and cease or alter the activity if a manatee is observed.

- Personnel will be briefed on civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees, which are protected under the MMPA and the ESA.
- Personnel will be briefed on the general appearance of the species and their habit of moving completely or partially submerged in shallow water.
- If a manatee is seen within 100 yards of active pile driving, all appropriate precautions will be implemented to ensure protection of the manatee. These precautions will include the immediate shutdown of pile driving equipment if a manatee comes within 60 yards of the equipment. Activities will not resume until the manatee has departed the 60-yard shutdown area on its own volition (i.e., it may not be herded or harassed from the area).
- Any injury to a manatee will be reported immediately. The report must be made to the USFWS at (919) 856-4520, ext. 28, the NMFS at (252) 728-8762, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at (252) 448-1546.
- A log detailing all sightings and/or injuries to manatees during pile driving will be maintained. Upon completion of the action, the project manager will prepare a report which summarizes all information on manatees encountered and submit the report to the USFWS's Raleigh Field Office.

Monitoring

The Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program is a study-based approach that Navy and NMFS agreed to during the adaptive management process to satisfy monitoring requirements for Navy MMPA authorizations. To ensure efficient implementation of the Navy's monitoring program and maintain consistency with how the program is already being implemented for the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) MMPA authorization, the same AFTT adaptive management process and reporting deadlines will be used for the JLOTS authorization.

The Navy is currently conducting numerous projects to achieve the Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program's top-level goals. The objectives of some of these projects include investigating the sound source level of pile driving and its effects on marine species, advancing scientific knowledge of presence, density, distribution, and movement of marine mammals found along the coasts of Virginia and North Carolina, and tagging and tracking sea turtle species to determine their use of the Chesapeake Bay. Information on these projects and all Navy monitoring projects can be found at <http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/>.

Agency Consultation and Coordination

Marine Mammal Protection Act: The Navy submitted an application for five-year incidental take authorizations to NMFS on August 8, 2014 for Level B harassment of 110 bottlenose dolphins and 50 Atlantic spotted dolphins annually. NMFS concluded that JLOTS training would have a negligible impact on the marine mammal species and stocks present in the JLOTS study area. NMFS issued their Final Rule and a Letter of Authorization (LOA) on June 2, 2015. This LOA authorizes the taking of marine mammals incidental to JLOTS training pursuant to 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Endangered Species Act: The Navy informally consulted with NMFS (Headquarters, Office of Protected Resources) on Atlantic sturgeon, green sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, fin whale, humpback whale, North Atlantic right whale, and the shortnose sturgeon. NMFS concurred with Navy's determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect on October 16, 2014. NMFS also provided a determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect for the hawksbill turtle, sei whale, sperm whale, and blue whale.

The Navy informally consulted with the USFWS's Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office on seabeach amaranth, loggerhead sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, piping plover, roseate tern, and West Indian manatee. NMFS concurred with Navy's determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect on August 24, 2013.

The Navy informally consulted with the USFWS's Virginia Ecological Services Field Office on loggerhead sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, piping plover, roseate tern, and West Indian manatee. NMFS concurred with Navy's determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect on July 17, 2014.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: The Navy determined that the Proposed Action could result in adverse effects to Essential Fish Habitat and consulted with the NMFS Northeast and Southeast Regional Offices on June 4, 2012. NMFS concurred with the Navy's assessment of impacts on January 8, 2013.

Coastal Zone Management Act: The Navy submitted consistency determinations for activities occurring within the coastal zone to Virginia and North Carolina. The Navy received concurrence from Virginia on November 19, 2013. Concurrence from North Carolina was assumed due to lack of response.

National Historic Preservation Act: The Navy consulted with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on its determination that no effects would occur to any historic properties at the Little Creek site; no effect to archaeological properties would occur at the Fort Story site; and no adverse effect to architectural

properties would occur at the Fort Story site. The Navy received concurrence with this finding on January 21, 2015.

The Navy consulted with the North Carolina SHPO on its determination that no effects would occur to any historic properties at Camp Lejeune. Concurrence from North Carolina SHPO with the Navy's determination was assumed due to lack of response.

Public Outreach

The Navy published Notices of Availability (NOA) in the *Virginian-Pilot*, the *Jacksonville Daily News* (January 11, 2015) and the *Camp Lejeune Globe* (January 8, 2015), to announce the 15-day public review period (January 6-21, 2015). In addition, online notices were published on each newspaper's website. Copies of the Draft EA were made available at two local libraries and the Draft EA was posted on the following website:

http://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/atlantic/fecs/mid-atlantic/about_us/environmental_norfolk/environmental_compliance.html.

Finding

After a review of the JLOTS EA, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and Navy regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 775), the Navy finds that conduct of the JLOTS training at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story and Camp Lejeune will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. Copies of the EA, including this FONSI, can be obtained from:

http://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/atlantic/fecs/mid-atlantic/about_us/environmental_norfolk/environmental_compliance.html.

8 June 2015

Date



Mr. Mark Honecker

Executive Director

United States Fleet Forces Command